

hope that these Turkish occupying forces, which are still stationed in the northern third of the island, will soon be withdrawn, thus allowing Greek and Turkish Cypriot compatriots to live in peace and unity in the absence of this needless military presence.

For the past 29 years, Cyprus has been a nation divided. Despite the strong desires of Greek Cypriots to return to the homes that they have been barred from since the initial invasion, and the expressed desires of an overwhelming majority of Turkish Cypriots to reunify the island so that all Cypriots can enjoy the benefits of EU membership, the Republic of Cyprus remains torn. There have been recent advancements, such as the signing of the EU Accession Treaty, the partial opening of the Green Line, and the package of measures that was designed and implemented by the Greek Cypriots with the intention of assisting their Turkish-Cypriot neighbors, but none of this has led to the ultimate goal, which is the peaceful reunification of the island. The United Nations, under the leadership of Secretary General Kofi Annan, made a sincere effort at encouraging negotiations between the two sides prior to the signing of the EU Accession Treaty, but the obdurate leader of the Turkish-Cypriots, Rauf Denktash, failed to cooperate. Thus, the division remains.

The failure to reunify the island is certainly not due to a lack of interest shown by the people of Cyprus. Compelled by desires to return to the lands they have been evicted from since the Turkish invasion of 1974, Greek-Cypriots continue to support efforts to reach a settlement through negotiations. Likewise, Turkish-Cypriots have come out in great numbers to demonstrate against their leader's negative approach in hopes of someday reuniting their country and gaining all of the benefits that come with EU membership. Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is vitally important for the United States government to continue its strong support and encouragement of the Cypriot community as they continue their push towards reunification.

I recently introduced a resolution into the House, H. Res. 320, which calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish troops of occupation from the Republic of Cyprus. Given the recent advancements that have been made, I feel that the removal of occupational forces would be an appropriate and meaningful step to continue the momentum towards reunification of the island. With over 30,000 troops currently stationed in Cyprus, the island is one of the most militarized countries in the world, and this is clearly not conducive to peaceful negotiations. I strongly urge each of my colleagues in the House to join me in support of this positive step, and to cosponsor this resolution.

It has been 29 long years since the Republic of Cyprus was first divided by the illegal occupation of Turkish military forces. For 29 years Greek-Cypriots have been barred from the northern portion of their homeland, and Turkish-Cypriots have lived through economic hardships under an illegitimate government. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that the time has come for the Republic of Cyprus to be reunified, and I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in support of all efforts towards this end.

IN TRIBUTE TO BERT BOECKMANN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bert Boeckmann, a close friend, who is being honored tonight for his many years of service to the Los Angeles Police Department and a lifetime of service to the community.

Bert Boeckmann proved his business acumen at an early age. He began selling automobiles at Galpin Ford in 1953 and by age 26 was general manager of the company. As vice president in 1960, he began purchasing company stock. Four years later he became president and majority stockholder. By 1968, the buyout was complete. Galpin Motors now employs more than 835 people and includes not only Ford, but also Saturn, Jaguar, Mazda and Volvo dealerships.

Bert also owns, partners or serves as board chairman in a slew of other companies spanning the spectrum from real estate development, to ranching, to mining to communications.

As anyone who has had dealings with one of Bert's companies can tell you, he has built his success on a recipe of moral character and ethical standards that are rewarded at every level. It works. For 30 of the past 34 years, he has been the Number One profitmaker for Ford Motor Company. For the past 11 years, he has ranked Number One nationally in Ford retail car and truck sales. About 87 percent of Galpin's sales are to customers who are either repeat customers, referrals from customers, or heard about the Galpin reputation.

Bert has given equal energy to bettering his community. He set a precedent by being appointed as a Los Angeles Police Department commissioner by three consecutive mayors. In addition to his Police Department service, which spans three decades, he served as a State of California New Motor Vehicle Board director, on the Mayor's Select Blue Ribbon Committee on Budget & Finance, and is president of the Municipal Improvement Corporation of L.A. He donated a major collection of 80,000 volumes of Spanish language books to the University of Southern California, including the complete history of Central and South America, and created an annual endowment to catalog and maintain the collection.

He has served on the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America since 1965, as a director of the San Fernando Valley Business and Professional Association since 1972, and supported Chambers of Commerces, universities and high schools, and many, many more civic, educational, church and business organizations.

Not surprisingly, Bert Boeckmann has won numerous prestigious awards for his business acumen and community service. To highlight only a few: the Jack Webb Award presented by the Los Angeles Police Department Historical Society, the Albert Schweitzer Award from the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation, and the Presidential Citation for Private Sector Initiatives, presented by President Reagan and Vice President Bush at a special Rose Garden Ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, Bert Boeckmann's life and success proves that ethical and moral cap-

italism is not only good business, but benefits everyone in the community. I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Bert Boeckmann and thank him for a lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSION OF THE DIAGEO IRAQ HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT TEAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize and pay tribute to the effort of the Diageo Iraq Humanitarian Airlift Team, who in four days, covered 12,000 miles, and delivered school supplies, hygienic and food products to the children of Iraq. The Diageo Iraq Humanitarian Airlift, one of the first U.S. corporate humanitarian missions into Iraq, provided 90,000 pounds of aid and supplies to improve the health and lives of thousands of Iraqi children.

As a project endorsed by both U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Commanding General Tommy Franks, this team of Diageo employees and Ground Zero Heroes—current and former New York City Firefighters and Policemen who provided emergency services on September 11th—left for Baghdad on June 22, 2003. This humanitarian team flew from New York to Amsterdam, where they loaded a DC-8 cargo transport plane with supplies that included such things as school materials, infant formula, milk powder, rice and sugar. With temperatures exceeding 115 degrees, the cargo plane carrying these supplies touched down at the Baghdad International Airport. In a city mostly without power and water, the Diageo Iraq Humanitarian Airlift volunteers visited among thousands of small children suffering from malnutrition, severe dehydration and other illnesses at the Habibya Children's Hospital and the Pediatric ward, formerly the Saddam Pediatric Hospital. These supplies have not only helped improve the health of these children, but have offered some relief to the many troubled parents who cannot afford the basic needs for their children.

The Diageo Iraq Humanitarian Airlift, marks the second time Diageo has embarked on a humanitarian airlift. In December 2001, New York Fire Department and Police Department officers participated in the Diageo "Ground Zero to Ground Zero" airlift taking food and emergency relief supplies to an orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking the volunteers of the Diageo Iraq Humanitarian Airlift and Diageo North America, who represent the finest and most compassionate qualities of America.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF JUSTICE, ILLINOIS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to salute the men and women of Justice, Illinois

for their act of positive Americanism. Led by Mayor Mel VanAllen, Clerk Kathleen Svoboda, and my good and longtime friend Jeff Kranig, the village of Justice planned, organized, and presented a magnificent celebration of Americanism dedicated to our men and women fighting terrorism and defending our Nation and people around the world.

This four-day long celebration included athletic events, cultural events, educational events, and culminated in a great parade and awards ceremony for the youth of the community. I was fortunate enough to be selected as parade marshal for this first annual Patriots weekend. I wish to thank the citizens of Justice for this great honor and express my sincere appreciation to them for all their hard work and dedication that brought this patriotic event to fruition. All residents of Justice should be very proud of their contribution to this unique and very special event.

In closing, let me say my Tricorner hat is off and my trusty old colonial musket is raised in salute to the Mayor, the clerk, my old friend Jeff, and the residents of Justice, Illinois.

COMMENDATION AND RECOGNITION FOR MERCATUS CENTER'S REPORT ON THE "TRANSPARENCY OF ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS FROM THE 24 FEDERAL CFO ACT AGENCIES"

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we are accountable not only to the constituents who elected us, but to all American taxpayers. We are responsible for making informed decisions, that incorporate a base of knowledge. The Mercatus Center at George Mason University provides a valuable, objective, independent evaluation to Members of Congress and taxpayers, by reviewing the annual performance reports of the 24 CFO Act agencies and ranking them according to three criteria: transparency, public benefit, and forwardlooking leadership. Mercatus evaluates the Annual Performance and Accountability Reports of each of these Agencies to determine how transparently an agency reports its successes and failures, how well an agency documents the tangible public benefits it claims to have produced, and whether an agency demonstrates leadership that uses annual performance information to devise strategies for improvement.

Their analysis and the report I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, allows us as Members of Congress to have a common understanding about which agencies report to the public most clearly. Their analysis also allows agencies to learn from their colleagues how best to present useful data about the performance of their organizations. Armed with this report, and upon reviewing performance information provided by agencies, we can and must determine appropriate resource allocations, based not on the amount appropriated and spent last year, but on what benefit was earned from this expenditure. We owe it to the people who pay our salaries, to demonstrate the public benefit created with the money en-

trusted to us. And where the government is a poor steward of funds, we must intervene to improve the Federal Government's role in providing efficient and effective service to the American people.

I commend the Mercatus Center's report to my colleagues.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public disclosure is the mechanism used to report on performance to those who are entitled to know. In this Scorecard we assess how effective reports of the agencies of the federal government are in disclosing pertinent information to the American people. We review these reports with the mindset of ordinary citizens, who are interested in looking for the benefits that the agencies provide and the effectiveness of the agencies' efforts. Thus, our research efforts emphasize an assessment of an agency's transparency of communications with the general public, identification and assessment of the public benefits it provides, and its leadership vision for the future.

In an era of increased demand for accountability, disclosure and transparency, the government has a responsibility to supply the American people with quality disclosures on the public benefits it provides. Clear, descriptive disclosure of the public benefits provided by governmental agencies allows ordinary citizens to understand the strategic goals and assess the agencies' performance relative to those goals.

Annual performance and accountability reports are one avenue for agencies to communicate with both citizens and policymakers. The purpose of this Scorecard is to encourage improvement in the quality of reporting on results achieved by government agencies. We do this by evaluating and ranking (1) how transparently an agency reports its successes and failures; (2) how well an agency documents the tangible public benefits it claims to have produced; and, (3) whether an agency demonstrates leadership that uses annual performance information to devise strategies for improvement.

Researchers at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University conducted our fourth annual evaluation of the reports produced by the 24 agencies covered under the Chief Financial Officers Act, using similar criteria to evaluate the fiscal year (FY) 2002 performance and accountability reports. By assessing the quality of agencies' reports (but not the quality of the results achieved), we wish to learn which agencies are supplying the information that Congress and the public need to make informed funding and policy decisions. The importance of quality reporting has taken on added significance in light of the President's Management Agenda that highlights the intent to use agency performance information to make budget decisions.

Best Reports: For FY 2002, the Department of Labor (Labor), the Department of Transportation (Transportation), the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans) produced the highest rated reports. Three of these agencies, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Veterans Affairs were rated the top three agencies for FY 2001 as well. The SBA joins their ranks this year.

Reports Most In Need Of Improvement: The Department of Defense (Defense), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Energy (Energy) earned the lowest rankings for FY 2002.

Most Improved Reports: Eleven agencies improved their scores from FY 2001 to FY

2002. Of these, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of State showed the most improvement in their rankings. The Small Business Administration moved from 16th to 3rd in the rankings, the Federal Emergency Management Agency jumped from 19th to 8th, and the Department of State moved from 20th to 11th.

Most Common Strengths: (1) accessibility of reports, and (2) clarity of reports.

Most Common Weaknesses: (1) weak or missing explanations of failures to achieve strategic goals, and (2) lack of well-articulated descriptions of changes in policies or procedures to address weaknesses or failures.

Mixed results: The average score of the 24 reporting agencies was 30, a 4.1 percent increase for FY 2002 reports compared to FY 2001. The average scores for seven of the twelve criteria improved this year, led by improvements of 26.9 percent for accessibility and 19.7 percent for better explanations of the linkages between the agencies goals and results to their costs. However, on average, agencies did not make progress in several areas, particularly in providing quality trend data (decline of 13.0 percent) and clearly articulating their goals and objectives as outcomes (decline of 9.9 percent).

Scorecard Rankings for FY 2002 (1) Labor; (2) Transportation; (3) SBA, Veterans; (5) Commerce; (6) EPA, Interior; (8) FEMA; (9) NRC, SSA; (11) State; (12) Agriculture, Education, GSA, Justice, NASA, OPM; (18) HUD, NSF, Treasury; (21) Energy, HHS; (23) USAID; and (24) Defense.

INTRODUCTION

Following the passage of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), federal agencies developed strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports to explain what they are trying to accomplish, identify performance measures, and report on their results. A new reporting requirement for FY 2002 requires agencies to prepare and submit a combined performance and accountability report. The combined Performance and Accountability Report includes the strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports previously included as well as a financial section, which incorporates the audited financial statements and report of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on serious management challenges.

President Bush's FY 2002 budget proposal called upon the federal government to produce better results for citizens by enhancing accountability for dollars collected and dollars spent. The administration also began using information on agency performance in the FY 2003 budget for a selected set of programs, a practice that has been expanded for the FY 2004 budget. Performance-based budgeting means that money will be allocated not just on the basis of perceived needs and policy priorities, but also according to the federal government's ability to address those needs and priorities effectively. Program proponents will have to demonstrate that the particular programs actually accomplish their stated goals.

For performance-based budgeting to work, performance information has to be transparent, accessible, and reliable. GPRA and its amendments require federal agencies to produce annual performance reports. The purpose of these reports is to give Congress and the American people accurate and timely information that will let them assess the extent to which agencies are producing tangible public benefits. In line with expectations under the legislation, agencies published their first reports (for FY 1999) in spring 2000, the second series in spring 2001 (covering FY 2000), the third series in spring